

FEB 28 2013

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## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE MANDATORY LABELING OF CARBON MONOXIDE  
OR GAS TREATED RAW FISH.

1 WHEREAS, it is a priority of the Legislature to promote,  
2 support, and protect the health of the State's residents and  
3 visitors; and

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5 WHEREAS, in some cases, raw fish is treated with carbon  
6 monoxide or gas to prevent oxidation and retain its color; and

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8 WHEREAS, the carbon monoxide used on raw fish binds with  
9 hemoglobin to prevent the flesh of the fish from turning from  
10 red to brown to gray; and

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12 WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has  
13 deemed carbon monoxide treated fish as "generally recognized as  
14 safe"; and

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16 WHEREAS, the European Union, Canada, and Japan have banned  
17 the use of carbon monoxide as a color stabilizer in fish because  
18 carbon monoxide or gas treated fish can mask the visual evidence  
19 of spoilage; and

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21 WHEREAS, researchers of the Food Science and Human  
22 Nutrition Department of the University of Florida found that  
23 carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish can look fresh while  
24 hiding an underlying health hazard; and

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26 WHEREAS, there is currently no requirement that carbon  
27 monoxide or gas treated raw fish be labeled to reflect the use  
28 of carbon monoxide or gas; and

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30 WHEREAS, raw fish treated with carbon monoxide or gas may  
31 potentially mislead the public in the determination of the



fish's freshness because the carbon monoxide will preserve the color of the fish, but not its quality; and

WHEREAS, the labeling of carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish can keep the public informed about the risk of spoilage that carbon monoxide or gas can mask in raw fish; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2013, the House of Representatives concurring, that this body expresses its support for the mandatory labeling of carbon monoxide or gas treated raw fish; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.

OFFERED BY:

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